

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 STOCKH 03019 271719Z

43

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 EURE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15

USIA-15 IO-13 RSR-01 /108 W
----- 064433

P R 271634Z AUG 73

FM AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 613

INFO AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE STOCKHOLM 3019

E.O.11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT SW

SUBJECT: SWEDISH ELECTION CAMPAIGN STALLED

SUMMARY. KING'S GRAVE ILLNESS AND DRAMATIC SIEGE OF
BANK ROBBER IN DOWNTOWN STOCKHOLM HAS SHARPLY BRAKED
SWEDEN'S ELECTION CAMPAIGN AND DRIVEN IT OFF FRONT
PAGES. OUTCOME OF TWIN DRAMAS WILL IN ALL LIKELIHOOD
AFFECT OUTCOME OF ELECTIONS, BUT FORECAST OF NET EFFECT
IS NOT YET POSSIBLE. END SUMMARY.

1. BECAUSE OF GRAVE ILLNESS OF KING AND EXTRAORDINARY
BANK-ROBBERY SIEGE NOW IN ITS FORTH DAY IN DOWNTOWN
STOCKHOLM, SWEDEN'S ELECTION CAMPAIGNING HAS BEEN BRAKED
SHARPLY AND BEEN DRIVEN OFF FRONT PAGES. ALTHOUGH PALME,
FALLDIN, AND OTHERS DID MAKE SOME SCHEDULED SPEECHES
OVER THE WEEKEND, THEY GOT ONLY LIGHT COVERAGE. MANY
CAMPAIGN SPEECHES AND OTHER EVENTS ARE BEING POSTPONED
OR CANCELLED. PALME ATTENDED THE LARGE METAL-WORKERS'
UNION CONFERENCE HERE ON AUGUST 26 (SEPTTEL), AND THE
EMPHASIS THERE WAS ON POLITICS, BUT A HEAVY CLOUD WAS
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 STOCKH 03019 271719Z

HANGING OVER THE CONFERENCE AND PEOPLE FIND IT HARD TO

CONCENTRATE ON THINGS SUCH AS TAXES AND UNEMPLOYMENT DURING THESE DRAMATIC DAYS.

2. AT THIS TIME KING IS REPORTED CLOSE TO DEATH, WITH RENEWED INTERNAL BLEEDING AND LOWERED BLOOD PRESSURE. ALTHOUGH MOST DO NOT WANT TO TALK ABOUT IT, THE PLANS FOR AFTER HIS DEMISE ARE NECESSARILY GOING FORWARD. INsofar AS WE CAN DETERMINE, THERE WILL BE A PERIOD OF SIX TO TEN DAYS BEFORE INTERMENT, DURING WHICH TIME ALL EXCEPT COMMUNISTS WILL OBSERVE MORATORIUM ON CAMPAIGNING. DEPENDING UPON EVENTS, OF COURSE, THIS WOULD STALL THE CAMPAIGN UNTIL CLOSE TO ELECTION TIME. THERE ARE NO PRESENT PLANS FOR POSTPONING THE ELCTION, WHICH WOULD REQUIRE EMERGENCY SESSION OF RIKSDAG FOR LEGISLATION.

3. WORLD MEDIA ARE NOW COVERING SWEDEN'S SPECTACULAR BANK-ROBBERY/SIEGE AND WE THUS WILL NOT REPORT DETAILS. IT TO HAS HAD AN EFFECT ON ELECTION, AS IT HAS VIRTUALLY BLOTTED OUT ALL TALK AND COVERAGE OF ANYTHING ELSE (EXCEPT KING'S CONDITION), SINCE AUGUST 23. PALME HAS TAKEN PERSONAL RESPONSIBILITY FOR OUTCOME OF SIEGE, AND THOUGH HE SAYS HE IS DOING WHAT POLICE RECOMMEND, WHATEVER HAPPENS TO HOSTAGES WILL INEVITABLY BE LAID TO HIM. SIEGE HAS ALSO RAISED AN OLD SWEDISH ISSUE OF LAW-AND-ORDER. SOCIAL DEMOCRATS HAVE BEEN FAIRLY STRONG ON BLAMING ILL OF SOCIETY AND SPILLOVERS FROM OTHER COUNTRIES FOR CRIME IN SWEDEN. NOW THERE IS TALK THAT PALME AND SOCDEMS HAVE BEEN TOO SOFT ON CRIMINALS, AND PALME HAS BEEN BACKPEDALLING ONTHE ISSUE DURING LAST FOUR DAYS, SAYING THAT IT IS IMPORTANT THAT POLICE HAVE ENOUGH STRENGTH TO DO THEIR JOB.

COMMENT: IT IS UNCLEAR WHAT EFFECT THESE TWO UNFORESEEN DRAMATIC EVENTS WILL HAVE ON THE ELECTION. MANY OBSERVERS BELIEVED THAT SOCDEMS WERE GETTING INTO HIGH GEAR AFTER THEIR SUCCESSFUL MALMO CAMPAIGN KICKOFF LAST WEEK AND THAT THESE EVENTS WILL CRIPPLE THEIR MOMENTUM. ON THE PLUS SIDE, WITH A CHANGE IN MONARCHY, WITH A YOUNG AND UNTRIED CROWN PRINCE, MANY BELIEVE THAT A LOT OF SWEDES LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 03 STOCKH 03019 271719Z

WILL HESITATE TO VOTE FOR A CHANGE IN GOVERNMENT ALSO. THE EFFECT OF THE SIEGE WILL BE HEAVILY CONDITIONED BY ITS OUTCOME. PALME'S IMAGE COULD WELL BE TARNISHED BADLY IF A TRAGEDY OCCURS.
OLSEN

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 27 AUG 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: morefirh
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973STOCKH03019
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: STOCKHOLM
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19730812/aaaaairp.tel
Line Count: 112
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: morefirh
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 12 SEP 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <12-Sep-2001 by freemaal>; APPROVED <30-Oct-2001 by morefirh>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SWEDISH ELECTION CAMPAIGN STALLED SUMMARY. KING'S GRAVE ILLNESS AND DRAMATIC SIEGE OF
TAGS: PINT, SW
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005